Joint ventures where feasible, have been set up with various friendly countries by importing state of-the-art technologies.

Joint venture products would be used by the partner countries, which could also be exported to other friendly countries, depending upon the agreements.

Crash of ALWH Dhruv

†1699. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recurring accidents of Advanced Light Weight Helicopter 'Dhruv' of Indian Air Force, jointly developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the date-wise details of such accidents;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to avoid such accidents; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) One Dhruv helicopter of the Indian Air Force (JAF) met with an accident on 2.2.2007 while practicing for the Aero India Show recently. Since its introduction in the IAF, this is the only case of accident involving 'Dhruv' helicopters.

(c) and (d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill-levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Fatalities of defence aircrafts, choppers and human lives

1700. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of fatalities of Defence aircrafts/choppers and human lives, that occurred in the past years during routine exercise;

(b) the causes for such large number of accidents;

(c) what is the estimated total loss and whether there is a provision for it in the Defence Budget and whether the aircrafts are covered by insurance; and

(d) what is the nature and status of compensation given to the families of the pilots who lost their lives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 65 aircraft of the Defence forces have crasehd since 1st April, 2003 till 5th March, 2007. In these accidents 58 human lives were lost.

(b) The major causes of accident are human error and technical defects. However, in each case of accident, an investigation is carried out and appropriate remedial action is taken.

(c) Besides the loss of aircraft and human lives, the estimated loss of civil property in these accidents was Rs. 10,09,348/-. In another accident which took place on 24 1.2007, the aircraft crashed in cultivated area damaging crops

At the procurement stage itself, the anticipated wastages due to aircraft accidents during the lifespan of the aircraft are taken into account.

Military aircraft are not covered by insurance.

(d) Compensation given to the families of the pilots killed are in nature of *ex-gratia.* In addition to *ex-gratia,* death gratuity, provident fund, payment from insurance scheme, special family pension are also released as per the service norms

Statement of Naval Chief on global terrorism

1701. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Naval Chief has stated that the Indian Ocean Region has became *de-facto* home for global terrorism; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to curb terrorism across the ocean?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.